

**CONFIDENTIAL**NIO/EA  
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PRIORITY

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STATE

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TOR: 090644Z DEC 83

NC 2851113

PP RUEAIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
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DE RUEHML #2038 3430636  
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3003  
INFO RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
RUHJWXA/COMUSNAVPHIL SUBIC BAY RP  
RUMUAAA/13THAF CLARK AB RP  
BT  
C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 32038

State Dept. review completed

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: LAUREL CLAIMS HE HAS RECEIVED OVERTURE FROM MARCOS

## 1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: OPPOSITION LEADER SALVADOR LAUREL CLAIMS HE RECEIVED DEC. 7 AN OVERTURE FROM MALACANANG TO "TALK." HE IS TREATING IT CAUTIOUSLY AND HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO ACT. LAUREL WANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 1984 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, BUT FEELS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST PREPARE A NEW VOTER REGISTRATION LIST FREE OF THE FICTITIOUS NAMES HE BELIEVES ARE ON THE PRESENT LIST. MOTIVATION FOR MARCOS' APPARENT FEELER IS UNCLEAR. IT MAY BE MEANT AS AN ATTEMPT AT DIALOGUE WITH THE OPPOSITION, OR IT MAY BE AIMED AT FURTHER DIVIDING HIS OPPONENTS IN PREPARATION FOR THE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. UNITED NATIONALIST DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION (UNIDO) PRESIDENT SALVADOR LAUREL TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER DEC. 8 THAT AN EMISSARY FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS CONTACTED HIM DEC. 7 WITH THE PROPOSAL THAT LAUREL AND MALACANANG "TALK." ACCORDING TO LAUREL, HIS VISITOR, WHO HAD JUST COME FROM BAGUIO, WHERE MARCOS IS VACATIONING, NOTED THE LONG HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE LAUREL AND MARCOS FAMILIES. HE ALSO TOLD LAUREL THAT MALACANANG AND FRIENDS OF MALACANANG, LIKE EDUARDO M. ("DANDING") COJUANGCO, HAD CONDUCTED NO LESS THAN FIVE PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS IN THE METRO MANILA AREA. THESE SURVEYS REPORTEDLY ALL SHOWED LAUREL TO BE THE MOST POPULAR OPPOSITION LEADER. BY CONTRAST, THE VISITOR TOLD HIM, MRS. MARCOS FARED POORLY IN THE SURVEYS.

4. LAUREL, WHO DID NOT IDENTIFY THE VISITOR BUT SAID HE WAS CERTAIN OF HIS CREDENTIALS, CLAIMED HE WAS IN A QUANDRY ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT. HE HAS ADVOCATED THE OPENING OF A DIALOGUE WITH MARCOS, BUT REALIZES TO DO SO ON HIS OWN WOULD UNDERMINE HIS CREDIBILITY AS AN OPPOSITION LEADER. LAUREL THUS PREFERS TO HAVE A "NEUTRAL PARTY" PRESENTATION IN A MEETING THAT MIGHT BE ARRANGED WITH MARCOS. HE SUGGESTED EITHER CARDINAL SIN OR AMBASSADOR ARMACOST, BUT DROPPED THE LATTER FROM HIS SHORT LIST WHEN EMBASSY OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD

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